GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6117
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003
PRODUCTION OF POTATO
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of production, productivity and cost of production and sale price per quintal of potato during each of last five years, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any mechanism to reduce the cost of production and increase the productivity of potato;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether potato growers are facing immense difficulties for not getting remunerative prices;

(e) if so, whether the Government have introduced any Market Intervention Schemes with Minimum Support Price for potato; and

(f) if so, the details thereof during the last five years, year-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The required information is given in the Annexure.

(b)&(c): Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Shimla has taken up a project entitled Development of low cost technology for potato production` for last 4 years. Some recommendations have emerged from this project, which have been released for adoption by the farmers. CPRI has several projects to increase the productivity of potatoes, namely, through breeding varieties, management of diseases and pests and optimal use of natural resources and supply of quality seed to State Department and Farmers.

(d) to (f): In order to minimize the difficulties faced by farmers, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) has been asked by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation to procure potatoes at Rs.190 per quintal under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) in Uttar Pradesh (UP). For the 2002-03 season, NAFED has procured 7340 quintals of potato in UP under the MIS scheme. State agencies have procured 1515 quintals, thereby raising the total procurement to 8855 quintals. Presently, the market rates of graded potatoes of fair average quality (FAQ) generally rule above the MIS price of Rs. 190 per quintal. As regards the previous four years, potatoes were procured under MIS only in one year i.e. 2000-01.

ANNEXURE

Area, Production and Productivity of Potato in Major Potato growing states during 1997-98 to 2001-02.

A-Area in `000 Hectares
P-Production in `000 Tonnes
Y-Yield in Kg/Hectare

State		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Bihar	A	167.8	178.4	183.5	144.6	140.8
	P	1465.6	1722.3	1717.9	1400.4	1432.3
	Y	8734	9564	9362	9685	10173
Punjab	A	54.7	79.0	75.5	59.4	70.5
	P	852.0	1523.4	1563.4	1187.2	1413.9
	Y	15576	19284	20707	19987	20055

Uttar Pradesh	A	398.4	429.2	447.7	394.1	389.9
	P	5844.1	9793.7	10109.1	8398.2	9570.0
	Y	14669	22818	22580	21310	24545
West Bengal	A	284.0	318.2	315.9	299.7	299.8
	P	5949.3	6689.6	7482.3	7673.1	7822.3
	Y	20948	21023	23686	25603	26092
All India	A	1205.9	1320.5	1340.0	1221.9	1218.2
	P	17648.1	23610.7	24713.2	22488.4	24082.0
	Y	14635	17880	18443	18404	19769

Cost of Production of Potato in Selected Major Potato growing States in India

State	Cost of Production (Rs/Qtl.)				
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Uttar Pradesh	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	200.53	170.28
West Bengal	178.75	189.62	215.95	239.23	229.24
Bihar	N.A.	221.55	248.78	242.64	257.35

N.A. Not available.

Wholesale Prices of Potato in India during 1998-99 to 2002-03

(Rs. per quintal)

Year	Delhi	Patna	Kolkata	All India (Average)
1998-1999	224	343	354	307
1999-2000	193	250	316	253
2000-2001	126	246	274	215
2001-2002	427	433	370	410
2002-2003	231	353	-	292